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09/334,185	06/16/1999	FRANK LIEBENOW	GW98-0769/34	5042

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EXAMINER

BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

23

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/334,185

Applicant(s)

LIEBENOW, FRANK

Examiner

KIEU-OANH T BUI

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/15/03 has been entered.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments (pre-amendment) with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,837/ or "Matt") in view of Amano et al. (U.S. Patent 5,585,865/ or "Amano" hereinafter).

Regarding claim 1, Matt discloses a method for performing events for related programs, comprising: “maintaining a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system, and performing at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, the at least one related program”, i.e, Matt clearly discloses a system and a method for broadcasting programs with its program information itself to users as well as the program information of a related program of that program to users/viewers, for instance, as the user picks or chooses “Seinfeld” program (Fig. 5/item 126), a descriptive window box 128 shows the program information of the program “Seinfeld” itself, as well as the related program information, as the user chooses MORE for more supplemental information, “Last week” for the last episode of the current playing program (emphasis added), and “Comedy Club” (140) as another related program information of “Seinfeld” (Fig. 5, and col. 9/lines 34 to col. 10/line 13), (which it exactly reads on the claim language of the present application).

Matt does not clearly show the step of “providing information on programs related through the at least one related program and associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program” as claimed but providing a supplemental information about the selected program; however, Amano, in an apparatus and method for television broadcast receiver which selects programs by genre and past view habits, teaches a television receiver system using an electronic program guide for providing program information and related program with information in a subset form of program information on a display to the user (as illustrated in Figs. 3-4 & 7). In other words, related programs or recurring programs of similar type or genre can be identified, either by the user input or automatically recognized by the system, and related programs are offered to the user for selecting and viewing (see col. 1/lines 15-30, col. 2/lines 12-25, col. 2/lines 30-52, and col. 6/line 22 to col. 7/line 22 for information on

related programs are provided in a subset of program information to the user within the next several hours on different channels for programs with similar contents or genre).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Matt's system with disclosed technique of Amano in order to offer an enhanced information handling system that can provide information on programs related through the at least one related program and associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program and performing the at least one related program to viewers as preferred. The motivation for doing this is to provide easy tuning and program selecting for the user as the user would like to view similar programs or same genre with their information at any time during a day, or week, or month, even if recurring programs occurs either automatically configured by the system or controlled by the user input as suggested by Amano.

As for claim 2, in further view of claim 1 above, Matt further discloses "the action of maintaining the program information for the given program, including the subset of program information for the at least one related program, in an electronic program guide (EPG)", i.e., an EPG that displays program schedule information in accordance with one of a plurality of user selectable modes as well as storage means for maintaining the program information (Fig. 5 as illustration for an EPG, and Fig. 4/item 96 for a program memory for maintaining the program information EPG in section 104).

With respect to claim 3, the step of "obtaining user input based on the information provided; and performing program events based on the user input" are revealed by Matt as Matt clearly shows that the user can access the "Seinfeld" program with program information on 120 and MORE information as one clicks on 140, and other related programs with their subset of program information are provided and displayed on the television screen as the user clicks on "Last week" or "Comedy Club" at item 140 (Fig. 5, and col. 9/line 55 to col. 10/line 14).

Regarding claim 4, Matt further clearly discloses “wherein the action of performing program events includes recording the given program and the at least one related program” by scheduling a recording session for a particular related program, if desired (Fig. 8/step 216 and col. 12/lines 18-29).

As for claim 5, Matt discloses “wherein the subset of program information is appended to the program information for the given program”, i.e., as the user clicks on the program information of the given program, the subset of program information is displaying (col. 9/line 34 to col. 10/line 20).

Regarding claim 6, Matt discloses a system for performing events for related programs comprising: at least one processor (Fig. 4/item 92); memory operably associated with said processor, i.e., either a volatile memory is of concern (Fig. 4/item 92) or a program memory (Fig. 4/item 96); and a program of instructions configured to be executed by said processor and stored in said memory, said program of instructions including instructions configured to maintain a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program in an information handling system, and perform at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, perform at least one program event for the at least one related program, i.e., an operating software program is used to control and configure instructions or commands in order to maintain and update the program schedule information including a subset of program information for at least one related program and to perform the program event for any given program as preferred (Fig. 4/items 101, 104, and col. 8/lines 20-67).

Matt does not clearly show the step of “providing information on programs related through the at least one related program and associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program” as claimed but providing a supplemental information about the selected program; however, Amano, in an apparatus and method for television broadcast receiver which selects programs by genre and past view habits, teaches a television receiver system using an electronic program guide for providing program information and related program with information in a subset form of program information on a display to the user (as illustrated in Figs. 3-4 & 7). In other words, related programs or recurring programs of similar type or genre can be identified, either by the user input or automatically recognized by the system, and related programs are offered to the user for selecting and viewing (see col. 1/lines 15-30, col. 2/lines 12-25, col. 2/lines 30-52, and col. 6/line 22 to col. 7/line 22 for information on related programs are provided in a subset of program information to the user within the next several hours on different channels for programs with similar contents or genre). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Matt’s system with disclosed technique of Amano in order to offer an enhanced information handling system that can provide information on programs related through the at least one related program and associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program and performing the at least one related program to viewers as preferred. The motivation for doing this is to provide easy tuning and program selecting for the user as the user would like to view similar programs or same genre with their information at any time during a day, or week, or month, even if recurring programs occurs either automatically configured by the system or controlled by the user input as suggested by Amano.

As for claim 7, Matt shows “wherein said program of instructions further includes instructions configured to maintain the program information for the given program, including the subset of program information for the at least one related program, in an electronic program guide (EPG)”, i.e., an EPG that displays program schedule information in accordance with one of a plurality of user selectable modes as well as storage means for maintaining the program information with program of instructions” (see Fig. 4, and col. 8/lines 20-67 as discussed in claim 6 above).

With respect to claim 8, Matt further reveals “wherein said program of instructions further includes instructions configured to obtain user input based on the information provided; and instructions configured to perform program events based on the user input” are revealed by Matt as Matt clearly shows that the user can access the “Seinfeld” program with program information on 120 and MORE information as one clicks on 140, and other related programs with their subset of program information are provided and displayed on the television screen as the user clicks on “Last week” or “Comedy Club” at item 140 (Fig. 5, and col. 9/line 55 to col. 10/line 14 with program of instructions as discussed in claim 6 above).

As for claim 9, Matt further discloses to include “a recording device”, i.e., recording scheduling programs (as shown in Fig. 8/item 216, and col. 9/lines 45-55 for a recording device).

With respect to claim 10, the step of “wherein the subset of program information is appended to the program information for the given program”, i.e., as the user clicks on the program information of the given program, the subset of program information is displaying (col. 9/line 34 to col. 10/line 20).



Regarding claims 11-19, these claims for “a computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions implementing the method above” and “a signal tangibly embodied in a propagation medium comprising at least one instruction configured to maintain; in an electronic program guide (EPG), a subset of program information for at least one related program of a given program with program information for the given program; at least one instruction configured to provide information on programs related through the at least one related program and associated with the subset of program information for the at least one related program; and at least one instruction configured to perform at least one program event for the given program and, based upon the subset of program information, the at least one related program and the information for the at least one related program” are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of method and system claims 1-10 as already discussed in details above.

### ***Conclusion***

**4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park IV, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

**5.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Krista Bui  
Art Unit 2611  
December 11, 2003



KRISTA BUI  
PATENT EXAMINER